Dear Mr & Mrs Robinson

The Ladies of Park Church
wished tender to you their
earnest sympathy in this time of
sickness and anxiety. It is
especially sad, that so soon
after coming to minister to us,
sickness should enter your home
and we be prevented from giving
you any attention or assistance.
But though for a time the
house is quarantined from us,
be assured that no quarantine
can shut out the sincere regards
and loving sympathy of your friends

Park Church Ladies

January 14th 1903.

Prechanicsville, N. Y.
April 20 - 1903.

My dear Robinson:

I understand Cowan of Canastota has been called to Rotodam. Should he accept the call, as I presume he will, would you be willing to present my name to the Canastota Church?

I am quite anxious to make a change, tho. there is no necessity for my doing so. Still, I feel that after being here for 12 years a change would do me good. If you can do anything for me I will greatly appreciate your kindness. I am asking you to present my name to the above Church because it is near you and you may know it.

Whether you are able to present my name to the Canastota Church, or any other Church or not, please do not say anything about my wanting a hearing in this or that-

Church. If you can do anything for me I assure you I will appreciate your Kindness. But if you feel you cannot do anything, just let me drop and think no more about me.

I Congratulate you on your call to Syracuse, and with all my heart I wish you good success in your important field.

Hoping I may hear from you and with Kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Yours very Sincerely,
A. McD. Paterson.

P.S. Would you be willing to let me refer any Church to you?

The Citizens National Bank
OF POTSDAM.
EDSON M. PERKINS, President.
W. M. HAWKINS, Vice President.
R. H. BYRNS, Cashier.

Potsdam, N.Y. Jan. 9. 1903.

My Dear Mr. Robinson,

Your letter found the Banker all right and hard at work. Our business has increased wonderfully in the last few weeks, and everything looks like success.

Mr. Tilley has remitted int. on one of my mortgages and I expect a payment on another soon. I guess Tilley is all right.

Mr. Sealy left with us to-day $42.00. and I have endorsed the same on your demand note. If you were here I would talk "swap" with you but I hardly think I could fill your place in Syracuse, but would have been glad to have undertaken the job in Potsdam if you would have consented. I want you to remember me to Mrs. Robinson and come and see us when in Potsdam.

Truly Yours,

Edson M. Perkins

My dearest friends.-

By the time this reaches you, probably the parson will be hard at work again and Sister Rob will have learned all about his visit here. Like most pleasant things it was all too short, but every minute was thoroughly enjoyed and you cannot realize how much good you did us. You always know just how to help people over hard places. How many you have helped me over in the last few years and how deeply I appreciate it! I know

you are anxious to hear from Sister Ella. Mr. Bonney told me that you saw Dr. Botsford, so you knew that the operation was successful and more serious than they expected. Mrs. Bonney wrote Saturday noon saying that she had been in to see Ella, but that Ella was very weak and did not talk much, except to ask if the operation was a success and to say that she was so glad Mrs. B. was there. The nurse, however, said that she was doing well and would improve rapidly and we have every reason to believe that she will be strong and well. Had the operation been performed here, I do not believe that she would have lived through it. How can one doubt that we are constantly in God's hands and that he guides us even in the smallest things that concern our every day lives? Mrs. Bonney will not come home for a day or two yet or until she feels sure that Ella is out of danger. George and his father expect to go up Saturday, so I shall not plan to go this week. Do you know, dear Mr. Robinson, I think your prayers had a great deal to do with the success of this operation? I have the greatest faith in the parson's prayers - and Sister Ella has, too. I

believe they must be different from other peoples - perhaps your faith is stronger. I had thought I would stay at home from church this morning, but when I found that Mr. B. was not going and George did not want to go alone I braced up and went. Was not sorry either as Mr. Steele had a very good sermon and the singing was fine. He looked very nice in a new "preaching suit" and white tie. Poor old Mr. Gray was there all alone. Mrs. Cubley was not out as she was not feeling well - she must be quite miserable. We are going to have a Teacher's Meeting Thursday night. I

am on committee for refreshments. Come in and have a pleasant chat with us. This afternoon was so beautiful and George and Josephine were so restless, I took them for a long walk. I found myself longing for the companionship of the dear Robinsons. Somehow, I depend upon you for love and sympathy more than ever - you two people help me as no one else can, and it seems to me that our friendship grows deeper and richer every day.

That was a sweet letter from you, dear Sister Rob - it touched my heart in a tender way. I am so glad

that we have pins alike - I wore mine today and thought of you and the giver very often. They are so pretty and quite new, as you say. I haven't seen any here yet and don't expect to for some time. I am in hopes I can get to see you for a few days sometime in June, but remember, you are not to make any change in your plans on my account. I think possibly Olive may be here for a little visit about that time and I could leave Josephine in her charge, even though Ella should not be entirely well then - at least that is what I had thought of. We will see how things are then. It is sweet of you to want me and I shall love to be with you. I enclose a copy of the lesson which Miss Wilson did for me - it is very neatly done, I think. You see by the length of this letter, that my shoulder is improved - don't know what I would do if I could not write letters.

Rosa Knowles did have a fine time with you, Sister Rob. She is a great admirer of yours and thinks you a model minister's wife. Write me often while I am here alone. I do get so lonely at times. With much love -

Sister Pert.

May 3 - 1903.

My dearest friends.-

Another Sunday is past and a busy day it has been for me, at least. Went to morning service, had charge of Primary Dept., taught my class, had charge of Mission Band this afternoon, went to evening service. Now isn't that a pretty good record for Sister Pert? Mr Cowan came last night and stayed at the Albion.- went home with G. F. Smith to dinner today. It was too bad that he could not have been entertained by some of our people,

but all of the old stand-bys seemed to be disabled and Rufus folks were away - He understood the situation and felt all right about it. There was a good audience this morning - several from other churches were present. Mr. & Mrs. Carleton Sanford among the number. Just before the sermon, Mr. Cowan in a very nice and tactful way thanked the people for the unanimous call given him, said he realized that he had a large place to fill, asked us not to criticize him too harshly as he had only fairly commenced his ministry and had many things to learn. Also asked for our earnest support and above all to be patient with him and give him a chance. He seemed so very humble and sincere and I think he feels that it will be hard for him to fill the place that you dear people held - His morning sermon was strong, forceful and helpful - the text being, "Strengthen the things that remain." It hit me and made me feel that I ought to brace up and make the most of what I have left. He read both sermons, so conclude that is his usual custom. He is going away on the noon train tomorrow - Has asked

Joe Bonney to go over the parsonage with him and take measurements tomorrow morning. I am afraid G. P. K. won't have a chance to air her knowledge, but presume she will go along, too. By the way, we are wondering if Rosa is going to visit you this week - have heard nothing about it through them. You must have been busy last week as I only had one letter from you written the 12th. however, I am sure I shall have one tomorrow.

Sister Ella does not seem to improve very rapidly - stays

in bed or on couch all the time, but goes from one room to another for change. I try to do all the nice little things I can think of for her, but am afraid I am not a very good nurse. Was over to see Grace Sisson yesterday. She was sitting up writing letters. I presume you had one. She has no strength and is thinking of going to a sanitarium for rest and treatment. She is urging Ella to go with her, but she thinks she cannot. Ella is real cheerful, more so than I would be, I feel sure. Mrs. Geo. Eastman was at

Church this morning - the first time since her illness - She liked Mr Cowan very much. He expects to be here the second Sunday in May for good. Next Sunday we are to have a man from Brasher. oh dear! You must be tired of hearing all this, but you must remember that you are the ones that stirred up the commotion. Don't you wish you hadn't? I expect that you are getting so you love the Cork "Cutha" folks pretty well, but don't you love any of them any more or as much as you do Sister Pert. She never will love any one else as much as dou - you may be sure of that. How I would enjoy a talk with you tonight - it would do my heart good, I know. There is no one who understands my innermost thoughts as do the dear Robinsons. Please overlook my poor writing and mistakes - I am very tired tonight. With very much love to all.

Sister Pert.

April 19 - 1903.

Monday Morning - Your beautiful, helpful letter just received - And to think it lay in Pleasant P.O. all day Sunday when I might have been enjoying it. Don't think for a minute that I shall love the new parson or recite my history to him. There is only one parson who has the deep affection of Sister Pert

My dearest friends.-

I have been thinking of you constantly all the morning and wishing for a little chat. It is quite like summer - how pleasant it would be to take a nice drive with the dear Robinsons. Sister Ella was made glad by your good letter this morning. I do not see why the Parson cannot come here just the same. She is not real sick - Gets up and dresses the middle of the forenoon and sits up for the rest of day. Presume she will be much better next week. How good it will be to see you again - there is so much to talk about. Let us know just when you

are coming. Have just been over to see Gracie Sisson - She was sitting out on the side piazza in the sun and looked very much like a "hunger". They are packing up slowly. Grace says she expects to be homesick over on Leroy St. and I should think she might be. The school teachers are very numerous around here now, this being institute week. They have had one ball and are to be given a reception tonight. Mrs. Heath is planning on a reception for the Cowans right away after their arrival. Should think it would be better to wait a bit. You will have a good chance to set some folks right about Mr. Cowan. They are the only ones who don't like him.

I am sure you will pardon this short letter as there is a dearth of news. Auntie Wood is visiting with Ella and I suppose I must go and make myself agreeable - quite a contrast from the pleasant chat with you. We shall be so happy to see the dear parson and wish dear Sister Rob were coming, too. You must be enjoying the Musical Festival - Was surprised to hear that Blauvelt is not up to Mary Howe.

Lots of love to you all.

Sister Pert.

April 23 - 1903.

My dearest friends,-

Having gotten my sister Olivia and the children settled for the night I am ready for a chat with you. The flowers came through all right and were delivered at No. 50 without extra charge. I took out half of them and put in a vase, with the card for Ella and sent the others over to Grace accompanied by the card for her. It was no trouble at all and I was delighted to do it for you. Never hesitate to ask me to do anything for you - no matter how great. It is always a pleasure

Ella was so surprised and delighted with hers - they certainly were beauties and will last so long. She has asked me to tell you how very much she is enjoying them and to thank you so much for the kind and loving thoughtfulness that prompted the gift. She is not able to write, in fact has not sat up for the last three days and is not gaining in strength. On Saturday Dr. Botsford told her that he thought she could never be better without an operation. He had said the same to me several days before, but I sort of felt that he might be mistaken and had kept it to myself by his request. However, he feels that it is the only thing to do and Dr. Madill is coming on Tuesday to make an examination and if he agrees with Dr. Botsford will probably perform the operation at that time. I do not understand just the nature of the operation but think it much like the one she had before, only possibly more serious. I have urged her going to a hospital as I feel that is the only place for such a case, but the Dr. & M. B. think she will be just as well cared for and as comfortable at home. Miss Gleason

the nurse is coming tomorrow night. Ella is real brave about it and says that I make her so. I do brace her up as well as I know how - you know Mr Bonney is more than nothing at such a time. If I could only be operated upon instead of her, I should not mind it at all as I have no fear of those things and I think she has. It is easier to be brave for one's self than it is to be so for others. Now I hope this will not alarm you - don't let it - as I feel sure every thing will come out all right and probably it will all be over by the time this reaches

you, and possibly Dr. Madill may not think it the thing to do. Ella and I both felt that you would like to know the exact situation. I will write on Tuesday. Ella has spoken of it many times and feels so badly that all this has to come just at the time of the dear Parson's visit, and I - well, I cant express my disappointment, as it has been such a pleasure to think that you were to be right in the house with us this time. But you will run in often, I know. Ella says she hopes to be well by the time that Mr. Cowan is installed and will expect you then. I suppose that

disappointments and constant thwarting of our plans are to make us better and stronger - but I sometimes wonder if they do. I went to church this morning - Mr. Edwards preached a very good sermon and went through the service without a waver. The Knowles pew was vacant - Grace is sick, must have been taken in the night, as she was out yesterday P.M. Do not know what is the trouble. Have seen Dr. Will Reynolds there twice today. What will the Centennial Celebration amount to if she is laid up? Mrs. Jesse Reynolds needs a lesson for next Sunday. Bring it along and help me copy it. Grace Sisson was out riding today. Old Mrs. Gray is very ill - Auntie Wood was over to dinner today - as lively as a cricket. Has this letter oppressed you? Cheer up, and remember how much Sister Pert loves you and how constantly you are in her thoughts. Your love and affection mean so much to me at all times - I could not do without it.

Let me know your plans -

With much love to you -

Sister Pert.

April 26 - 1903.

My dear, dear friends, -

Your Sunday letter was read with the usual eagerness. You do write such helpful letters - Sister Pert could not get along without them. I am sorry that Sister Cubley told you that I am thin & worn etc. for I am not any more so than usual. I have felt very tired and at times much depressed and lonely, but I am all right now and am not going to allow myself to get lonely again - Your deep, genuine friendship does help me more than you can realize - in fact, it is the only "bracer" I have. It is everything to me and makes life

worth living. Talk about getting even - why do you do so much for me? I don't want you to. I thank you very much for the Post Standard and I shall enjoy it as I have of late. I intended paying for it myself. Somehow, I can't get ahead of you people and I never try. I want to give you little things once in a while, because I love you so and it makes me happy. If I gave you "my all" it wouldn't half repay you for all you have done for me. Your Easter audience and service must have been very pleasing to you. The programs were so neat and pretty. We noticed in the paper that you were chosen moderator - it must call for a good deal of extra work. We are so glad that you are coming up here soon - it seems ages since I saw you. You are planning to spend part of your summer vacation here, aren't you? I am just counting on that. Arthur took me out home to spend the day Tuesday - I enjoyed it as the weather was perfect. My sister-in-law went home yesterday. Sister Ella is staying in bed for a few days - following the Dr's. advice. The Knowles' are having the parsonage repaired inside - getting ready for Cowan. Weller is working up there - presume it is only a little freshening up. Won't you have a nice time when C. R. K. makes our that visit?

I haven't a bit of news, as I haven't been

down town since Monday or seen anyone outside. Am going to start out now. Sister Rob, how did you like Sister Rufus' red hat? Am glad that you are getting your garden started. That will make you happy. I wonder if you know how interested Sister Pert is in everything that concerns you dear folks. I am so proud of your success too, and want you to know it. You are the people, and ever will be. to your loving

Sister Pert.

April 16-1903.
10-30 A.M.

My dearest friends.-

Probably you have received my hurriedly written note of this morning. Thought you might like to know my decision in regard to N.Y. trip. I could not possibly get away just now and then there would really be very little chance to have a good visit with you. I will try to run down to Syracuse and see you for a few days some time in May, but don't let this interfere with any plans you may make for your other friends. Hardly think I could go before the middle of May. Aren't you

coming up here to preach soon? Mr. Cowan has accepted the call and is to be here next Sunday, but probably not to stay. Joe thinks he wants to look over the parsonage and see just what they need. So presume we will need pulpit supply for a few Sundays. I am glad that he has decided to come and hope he is the right one, but I cannot get up any interest or enthusiasm over it. In fact, I fear I am getting into a chronic state of indifference over things in general, but it is hard to become interested in anything when one's heart is not in it, don't you think so? Well, I wonder what kind of an Easter your dear people have had. A joyous one, I hope. The weather here was perfect. We had a very good attendance this morning and a fine sermon by the young student from Montreal - he went through the service beautifully. At 8-30 there was not a plant of any kind in church - I took down three from here, Joe & Helen, & Hattie Smith brought some, we sent out for others and in less than an hour it was as pretty as one could wish. The Easter collection from Sunday School for benefit of Junior Dept. was

$22.28 The children brought in over $18.00 of this amount. The special exercises went off well. Mr. Cubley is a great Superintendent. Don't you think we are pretty nice folks any way? Do you think there are any better in Park Central? Gracie Sisson is better, but is not up yet. Mrs. Rufus told me that they (she & Mr. Sisson) were going to N.Y. the last of week and that possibly you might be there. I did not tell her that I knew it. I know lots of things that I never tell - don't you?

I wonder if you have heard that Fred Peck sold out his

grocery business, locked up his house and he & wife have skipped for California, it is supposed. He went through his money in a hurry. The Citizens Bank have a mortgage of $5000.00 on the house. There is always something for excitement here. Sister Ella is not feeling a bit well - did not go to church today. My brother's wife is coming home from Washington excursion on Friday and Ella has invited her to spend a few days with us - don't know whether she will or not.

Fortnightly meets here tomorrow

night - come in and hear Prof. Graffam and Mrs Countryman pour forth. I have been going to bed so early lately, that I am afraid I shall go sound asleep before it is over. I do think my letters must be tiresome running on in this strain - Yours are always so interesting to me. Your Wednesday's letter was devoured as all the others have been. I can't tell you how much they are to me in my lonely life. You can never know how much your deep friendship and love mean to Sister Pert. I do feel so often that you are the only real, genuine and truly helpful friends I have. You understand me thoroughly - no one else does. I do miss the heart to heart talks that we often used to have and which always strengthened me and helped me over the hard places - I am glad that we had as many as we did while we were together - You see I am on the verge of one tonight. Now, you two children have the best time possible in N.Y. Eat lots, see lots - never mind about the sleep. Remember that you are to be perfectly happy + care free.

Much love to all.

April 12. 1903.

Sister Pert.

Dear Mr. Robinson,.

It was very kind of you and Sister Rob to think of me in connection with your N.Y. trip. I appreciate it very much, but it will be impossible for me to even think of going. I hope you will have a very pleasant time and a restful change. This is an ideal Easter morning. Mr. Hamilton from Montreal is to preach. I am just now going down to church to take some

Dear Mr. Robinson,.

It was very kind of you and Sister Rob to think of me in connection with your N.Y. trip. I appreciate it very much, but it will be impossible for me to even think of going. I hope you will have a very pleasant time and a restful change. This is an ideal Easter morning. Mr. Hamilton from Montreal is to preach. I am just now going down to church to take some

plans & arrange them - so you will pardon this brief note. I will write my usual letter tonight -

Much love to all.

Sister Pert.

April 12. 1908.

My dear friends.-

I know that you will be glad to hear that the Church meeting last evening was very harmonious and resulted in a unanimous call for Mr. Cowan. Everyone seemed so happy and satisfied over the decision. Mr. Perrigo is to represent the congregation at Presbytery. Mr. Townsend presided at the meeting and did it well. I believe he is improving. I will not enter into all the details, as Mrs. Cubley will tell you when she gets there. Now, you dear things,

don't think that because we have finally chosen a pastor, we are going to forget you. You both know how very dear you are to us and ever will be. There is only one pastor and wife and dearest friends combined to me - No matter what trials and sorrows may come to me, you dear people are the only ones who can get near and help me. Without you I should not know how to live. Dear Sister Rob, I was delighted to get your letter yesterday - it was sweet of you to write me. Sister Ella is not feeling very well - did not get up to breakfast this morning. Poor Gracie Sisson is sick in bed with a nurse, Miss Gleason. She is simply tired out and her mother said she could not do all the things necessary for her, so had the nurse. Mr. & Mrs. Rufus did not go on the excursion - very few went from here. This is a beautiful morning - almost like summer. Wish you were here. Dr. Kirby is president of Fortnightly Club - Mr. Cann. Vice-pres. We are to have no lecture course next winter. The annual banquet is given up also, on account of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary. There are to be two sections - one to study Sociology - the other Robert Browning. I will let this letter serve for the one usually

received on Friday, so won't write again until Sunday night.
Expect your Easter services will be fine - it is so nice that Mrs. Cubley can be there. Don't know much about ours - except that the Primaries are to perform.
Write often - With a heart full of love from

Sister Pert.

April 8 - 1903.

My dearest friends,-

All the folks have gone to evening service except Josephine and myself and as she is asleep I am really all by "my lonely" - just the time for a nice little chat with you. Mr. Townsend preached to us this morning - he had a very good sermon except that it was a little long. You must think that I am ignorant of the rules governing the Pres. church to say that the minister question was to be decided today - well I confess that I am. But that was what several of

us understood. Mr. Townsend announced this morning that there would be a special meeting of congregation to select a pastor on Tuesday evening - prayermeeting to be held at that time also. We are anxiously awaiting the result. Now I will tell you about the Wednesday evening meeting, but please do not mention it to anybody. In the first place the session room was filled - every seat taken - The first ballot was to ascertain how many were ready to vote for a pastor. All except 9 were ready. The next time each one put the name of his choice on ballot. when counted it was found that one candidate had 69 votes, another 21, and third 2 votes. Then it was voted to make it unanimous for the one with 69 votes. After that the names were given - Cowan 69, Walker 21 and Glover 2. Of course that was only an informal ballot, but it shows the situation We do hope it will be Cowan in the end. Walker is a good man, but is very nervous in the pulpit - too much like methodist style - then he had no college education. The strongest and most levelheaded people are for Cowan. Now don't breathe this. I will write you the final decision, which we earnestly pray will be Cowan. I had charge of

Mission Band for Grace Sisson this afternoon as she is not well. Went over to see her afterwards. She went over to Ogdensburg Friday and got sort of "done up." She says they don't know yet where they are going to live, but I can't quite believe that. Just before lunch I took a walk up Elm St. with my mind on the Robinsons. I like to get away by myself once in a while and let my thoughts wander to the joy days of the past. It is pleasant to dwell on those memories - I live on them. I guess you changed your mind about Lester Pert being "put out"

when you got my letter Saturday. I meant that you should have it on Friday as usual. Don't ever worry about me being "mad". You ought to know the kind of stuff I am made of by this time. I couldn't be "put out" with your dear people even if I had reason to be, which I have not.
I enjoyed the Auxiliary as I always do and appreciate your thoughtfulness. The March number of Adjutant is just now out.
Tomorrow evening the Annual meeting of the Fortnightly is to be held at Mrs. Weed's. I expect there will be a great time. Ernest Fay says

there is more going on here than in Albany. Doubtless you have heard of the Citizen's Mass meeting which was held at the Methodist Church last Sunday evening. Mr. Cann & Miller raked the Tech. Professors, Ed. Merritt and several others over the coals in great shape - It was needed no doubt, but the method showed no tact. Several persons have said, in my hearing, that they wouldn't have gotten you into any such thing as that. We were thankful that the Presbyterians were in their own church attending to their own affairs. Mrs. Rufus has no girl and is trying to get her children boarded out while she goes to Washington. Mrs. Cubley says she can't decide whether to go Saturday or Monday. Guess she doesn't like to leave him alone for Easter. Should think Mr. Shepard would be down sick when he thinks how foolish he was to leave here. I am so sorry that dear Sister Rob does not feel well. While this has been a pleasant spring, for some reason there has been a good deal of that "tired feeling". it has almost done me up at times, but I am beginning to feel better and I hope Sister Rob. will very soon. How I would like to run in for a chat with you face to face. Your letter received Saturday was a comfort & joy.

Very much love to all.

Apr. 5. 1903. Sister Bert.

My dearest friends,-

My thoughts have been with you constantly for the last hour while doing the S.S. lesson - you are very closely associated with that old gelatine pad - I always feel that I could work so much better if you were sitting around and the time would not seem half so long - in fact it would be all too short. It is a long time since we have had such a dismal day as this - the rain is simply pouring down and it is so dark. Prof. & Mrs. Robinson are coming to spend the day - don't know how they will ever get here. They are not going to stay here any - are only going to

be in town until Tuesday. They are perfectly delighted to get back. He was here all yesterday forenoon visiting with Ella. Mr. Wright is here papering Ella's room - the hall also is to be done over. We were so glad to know that Mr. Cowan was pleased with Potsdam - The weather was fine and everything looking spring like. We do hope he will be the man and Sunday will decide the matter as it is to be put to vote then. All the Sissons, Bonneys, Perts and lots of others are for him. There are a few who liked Walker, but if the majority want Cowan, probably it will be made unanimous. I will write you all about it Sunday night. I had a nice long letter from Mrs. Gemmel yesterday, telling all about her sickness - She said you were so lovely to come and see her and it helped her very much. Am so sorry that Mrs. McMaster is not improving. It must be discouraging for them both. You did not call that a scolding in my last letter, did you? I could not scold you dear people if I tried, because I love you too well to do that. How I would like to see you this minute - you are dearer to me than you can realize - Do hope, Sister Rob, that you have recovered from that cold - they are very prevalent here. Write me often - your letters are such a comfort. Very much love to all.

Apr. 3 - 1903.

Sister Pert.

My dearest friends,-

How I wish I might step into the study and have a heart to heart talk with you this night. In the first place, I should scold you a little bit for so misunderstanding my letter. I cannot tell you how deeply I regret that it gave you pain, especially as there was absolutely no cause for it. That a thoughtless remark of mine, with no foundation whatever, should have caused you so much distress makes me very unhappy.

In the first place, no one has ever said an unpleasant word to me regarding my deep friendship with the Robinsons or even hinted at

such a thing - On the contrary, everybody is very lovely to me and I never was more at peace with the world in general than at the present time. The letter that I sent you last Thursday was very hurriedly written and had I taken time to read it over, probably I might have seen that it did not sound at all as I meant it should. Auntie Wood had just been giving me a "raking over" for being friendly with Mattie Pert, and it was her of whom I was thinking when I spoke of "mutual friends". She never says anything about you, however. You know that I tell you everything, pour out my heart to you always and it seems to me that you ought to trust me sufficiently to know that I would tell you if anything had been said to disturb me instead of hinting at it, as you evidently thought I did. You are the dearest and truest friends I have. Aside from my own husband, no one has ever gotten into my life and given me so much happiness as you dear people and you both must realize how deeply and truly I appreciate all you have done for me. I never could have lived through my crushing sorrow but for your love and constant thoughtfulness and care. I know that you both love to have deep and confiding friendships - you should have them, do have them and always will, for you have just the qualities that attract and hold people - Everyone says that. It is just these friendships that make

life worth living and you must not feel that people do not want you to have them. That is all a mistake. Forgive me if I say that you are over sensitive on the subject. Now really, don't you think you are? I don't know of any one who has as many warm, true and admiring friends right here in old Potsdam as you have. I said not to count on a visit from me, because I realize that you have a great many friends to plan for and I do not want you to save any especial time for me. I might go down for three or four days, but I really do not think I could make another long visit this spring. Let's save that for next winter - it gives me something to think about and to look

forward to and makes me quite happy. I daresay you are anxious to hear of Mr. Cowans reception. He said he called upon you on his way up. As far as we know everyone was delighted with him. The service went off beautifully without a hitch. He gave us two strong, forceful sermons, by far the best that have been heard in this church since you left us. He read them, but was not closely confined to his notes. I wonder if he always does that way. The Young Mens League liked him very much and taken altogether it certainly looks as though he would be the man, if he cares to come. So many people said, "Well, he seems more like Mr. Robinson".

You may not consider that a compliment, but it shows how much you are thought of and who is the ideal in the minds of our people. When you have settled upon a date to exchange with Mr. Skinner, why do you not write to Joe or Rufus about coming here. I am sure it would be a great pleasure to all the church people to see and hear you again. There will probably be several Sundays without a minister as Cowan is last to be heard as a candidate, I believe. You are coming here for a few days rest and visit when you exchange anyway. Sister Ella said so, and we will be so very glad to see you and will make you young and happy again. I don't believe you feel real well and like your old self yet. You need a change and rest and you know that the Bunch girls will give you a warm welcome. I wonder if I have made it plain to you that nothing has been said to disturb my peace - It makes my heart ache to think that I should have so misled you and caused you pain - but I know you will forgive "poor me" - I won't be so thoughtless again, I assure you. If I ever again write something that you do not understand, just ask me to explain before you draw your conclusions.

With very much love to you all.

Sister Pert.

Mch. 29-1903.

My dearest friends.-

It was a delight to have such a nice letter from each of you - do so some more. I don't wonder you were a little blue with all the gloomy days we have had, but surely this beautiful morning you must be happy and full of contentment, for you have everything to make you so, as I have before remarked. Are you tired of hearing it? I am sure you don't mind - it is only that I want you to be perfectly happy. I went to prayer meeting last night - the first time for weeks. Mr. Rufus led and it was a very

good meeting - afterward, Mr + Mrs. Joe came up and we played Flinch until 10 o'clock. Tuesday evening Josephine and I were over to Mr Perkins to eat new sugar with all the other Perts and Perkins. Our sister-in-law did not come out as was expected, so we haven't had that pleasure. You had better not count on Sister Pert getting to Syracuse this spring as I don't see how I can go, for several reasons. I will put it off until another fall - then, our "mutual friends" (?) cannot say that I go too often. It will be summer before we know it, and then you will be here a good deal, I hope. I am so sorry for Mrs. McCheeney - hope her little boy is improving by this time. I am getting to be very industrious. Can you believe it? Put in lots of time sewing these days and enjoy it when every thing goes smoothly. I don't know what to tell you in regard to preaching here instead of Gouverneur. Think everyone would be very glad to hear you. When you write my sister again ask her what she thinks about it. My advice is not worth much, any way.

I wish you dear people were here this morning and that we could take a nice long drive. I am going down town on business. We have rented half of the store next to

to the Express Co. and are going to take out oven, put up a partition and fix it up generally. I enclose "a lesson" - Think Mrs. Reynolds will want another soon as she is to give this one out next Sunday. I understand that Mr. & Mrs. Rufus are going to take in the Washington excursion this year. don't know of any others from here.

Sister Rob. I would send you a sample of my new kimona that I made yesterday, but am afraid you would not think it pretty. Am so glad that the "parson" is getting to feel more like himself. It worries me to have any of

you ill so you must keep well.
Ella has just been in with your
letter - says she is sure she
never made any fun of the Parson's
illness -

With very much love to all -

Sister Pert.

Mch. 26 - 1909.

My dearest friends.-

Are you ready for the usual fireside chat? I am, so here goes. We have just gotten home from evening service and Mr. Walker is down in the parlor making a call - Miss Whitney is there also. I prefer to stay up here and visit with you dear friends. Mr. Walker is stopping at the Albion, but was at Mr. O.E. Bonney's to tea last night and at Rufus Sisson's to dinner today. He seems real nice and genuine and was well liked by a good

many. Got through the service all right, except that we had no benediction, but that was Mr. Everett's fault as she began playing at the end of the prayer before he had time to pronounce it. She begged his pardon, so guess it was all right. Joe Bonney has written to Cowan to come next Sunday and we hope that will close the contest. Cowan wrote that he could not come today, so they asked Walker and just after his acceptance was received, Cowan wrote that he would come. They wondered why he changed his mind. It will be difficult to decide with three in the field. Walker is 32, has a wife but no children. Ella and I like him the best of any one we have heard so far.

You will be glad to know that Mrs. Eastman is very much better. Margaret has given up her school again. Poor girl, she does have a hard time, but of course her mother needs her now. I wonder if you have heard that Mrs. McArthur has gone to her husband. That affair is working out beautifully, isn't it? Ella and I called upon Miss Rutherford Friday and when we asked for her sister she said she had gone away, but did not say where. I learned through Belle Champlin that she returned with her husband a week

or so ago. We all have so much sympathy for the Conkey family. They have offered their house for sale and he is going to Minneapolis very soon to look up work or a business - She has a brother there who is urging them to come. If he locates there, the family will follow later.

Dr. Saunders leaves this week, as the Tech Board have found a permanent man for his place - Merkley is his name. Dr. S. has more brains than all the others put together, but he did not want to stay as he has other plans. And so it goes - verily

we have a floating Tabulation.

Prof. and Mrs. Robinson are coming to visit the Rosegrants about Apr. 1. Suppose they will be here some, too. Tomorrow we expect Charlie's wife and little girl out for a few days. Josephine is so anxious to see Dorothy. Josephine wrote to Stewart last night. She ought to have done it before, but somehow gets very little time for anything outside of school.

This has been a charming day. Ella, Helen Bonney and I took a walk this afternoon and on our way home stopped at Mr.

Rufus' to see how they liked Mr. Walker. They thought him very nice, but of the two rather favored Mr. Glover. I have talked about everybody else and left those that are nearest my heart until the last. Now I want to know how you are. I hope the parson has entirely recovered from his illness and that his dear little wife is getting rested - in short, I hope that both of you are well and very happy. I do think of you almost constantly and can imagine what you are doing a good share of the time. Don't ever think that I will care much for the next parson and his wife - I shall be perfectly indifferent - treat them decently to be sure - but get near them - "No". There can be but <u>one</u> parson + wife to Sister Pert - they are the true, helpful and loving friends of "202". There is no room in my heart for any others. You are my dear brother + sister.

It is hard to stop, but I must for I know that you have heard enough for this time.

With love to all.

Sister Pert.

Mich. 22-1903.

My dearest friends,-

I was very happy at receiving a letter in the parson's own handwriting this morning, and appreciate the thoughtfulness that prompted him to write to Sister Pert first of all. You poor children, you did have a hard time for a few days didn't you? I was really very much alarmed, but no one knew it. Now that you are over it, I believe you will feel like a new man. Sister Ella says that Sister Rob makes a fine nurse and that she took

great care of you. Don't feel disturbed about the ending of Ella's visit - She had a fine time and feels so well now. The change was just what she needed. This afternoon she went to Anna Fairburn's party - just the girls in her S.S. Class. Ella attended prayer meeting this evening. There were a goodly number out - Dr. Botsford was there - Joe Bonney had charge. Mrs. Eastman is real sick. Has a nurse and Rose Wright is helping care for her too. Margaret had just gone to Norwood to teach when she came down with mumps and had to come home. Don't know just what is the matter with Mrs. E. but think it is some stomach trouble.

Mr. Conkey has failed in business again and his store is closed. Isn't it too bad? I do feel so sorry for them - don't see what they are going to do. How is it that some men are so unfortunate? The most exciting thing was the election yesterday in which Mr. Lewis won over Fred Reid for village president - We are going to have a new dam and an electric fire alarm system - who says old Potsdam is slow? The Redways are tearing down the back part of their house, chiefly because

they are going to paint this spring and don't want to go over so much territory I guess.

Mrs. Cubley spent this afternoon with me - we sat and sewed while we talked. She is not at all well. Has been very nervous since she came home from the sanitarium. Guess she feels that it did not benefit her much.

Gracie Sisson was over for a long time Monday p.m. Then we took a nice walk.

You will be glad to know that Auntie Wood was real sweet on Ella today - Ella thinks my

talk was just what she needed. Am glad if it was - she found out my opinion of her anyway. We are all enjoying Sister Rob's candy - it is sweet like the giver. Josephine was delighted with the book strap and will write Stewart soon. In the April number of Harpers Bazar on page 379 there is a nice little poem called "The New Version". Think Sister Rob would appreciate the strenuous life part. You dear people are so good to me - city life doesn't change you at all as I can see, and I am so

glad. It is so nice to feel that you care just as much for me as of yore, even though you have a thousand and one things and people to take up your thoughts and time.
I am the same old Sister Pert and there is no one that will ever be as dear to me as the dear sweet Robinsons. Their place in my heart is deep and secure.

The three letters you wrote me when I was alone did me worlds of good - Each one warded off an attack of blues. That was real home missionary work.

You certainly have a very high-toned name for your late attack - hepatic colic - doubtless the Potsdam doctors would have called it <u>cholera infantum</u>.

I understand that we are to hear Mr. Walker of Burke next Sunday - think I will take a rest - it is getting too tiresome.

If you don't have a relapse after wading through this letter, I shall be surprised.

With lots of love to all -

Sister Pert.

Mch. 18 - 1903.

My dearest friends.

Your letter received this noon. It is very good of you to write me in my loneliness. I find myself watching eagerly for the postman. I have been out very little this week - down town only twice. something new for me, but I have kept busy at home. The evenings are rather long and I often wish you people could run in for a chat as of yore. Those good old times seem so far away - almost like a dream. Do you really mean that you and Sister

Ella are taking medicine? I don't wonder you are under the weather after sitting at the dinner table two hours and twenty minutes. Think a game of tag or leap frog would be an excellent thing between courses. I know Sister Rob must have looked very sweet in her blue dress and of course, you were dignified and handsome in your new dress suit. I am so glad that you can have such pleasant times - You should, and I believe you do, appreciate it all. This is the time of your lives and you must let each day count, enjoy every minute and be constantly happy, for you have so much to make you so. Let little clouds and trials have no effect upon you, except to make you stronger. This sounds like the advice of a sage, doesn't it? Well, Sister Pert has lived long enough to know that every word of it is true - and she does want you happy.

It must have been very gratifying to receive such a large number into the church last Sunday - Your good works have begun to bear fruit already. Now that Mr. Draper's resignation has been accepted, I am wondering if you will want to get Mr. Skinner into Fourth Church

Mr. John Hamlin died yesterday - he has not been well for some time. Poor Lou Gemmel, I am sorry for her. I suppose she thinks him perfect for all that.

I hope that you have recovered your usual good health by this time - don't work too hard - it doesn't pay. Sister Ella too, trust she is better. We don't know whether to look for her tomorrow or not, as we haven't heard from her. Am sure she is enjoying every minute at 202. Think she had better stay over Sunday and hear a good sermon. Leonard T. Cole

is to pour forth here, I believe.
They have written Mr. Cowan to
come one week from Sunday.
Several people liked Mr. Glover
and he would be glad to come
here. Presume it will be between
him and Cowan.
Does Sister Rob. like Syracuse better
since her return? I will do the
S.S. lesson tomorrow - Wish the "Robs"
could sit around and help me.
My children are in bed and it is
time I was there.

With lots of love to all.

Sister Pert.

Mch. 12-1903.

My dearest friends,-

Having gotten my children safely tucked away for the night and myself comfortably settled in my bath robe, I am ready for our usual Sunday night chat.

Ever since receiving Sister Ella's letter telling of dear Mr. Robinson's illness, I have been very anxious and you have been constantly in my mind. I would have given a good deal to have known just how you were today, but have tried to be patient and feel that you were all right.

I can not bear to think of you

dear people suffering and I not being able to help you in some way or other. I want you to feel perfectly free to call upon me whenever there is anything that I can do for you, for there are no truer friends than we.

This has been a charming day - beautiful sunshine and clear spring air. There were a goodly number out to church this morning. Poor Mr. Cole got rattled and bungled the service dreadfully, though Joe Bonney went over it twice with him last night. Frank Sisson got his mouth fairly open to sing a solo that he had been practicing on all the morning, when Mr. Cole began to pray. He gave the offertory prayer and the collectors were out in the hall with their plates. Helene Bonney asked me if I didn't feel as though I had been sitting on a point. I said, "not one, but several." I did feel sorry for the man he is the first man that ever made such a mess of it. After S.S. there was a teacher's meeting to decide what course to take with Schuyler Baum - they talked of putting him in a class all by himself, but I did not stay to hear what was decided upon.

This afternoon I went to Mission Band

with Josephine - afterward Mattie Pert came over and stayed to lunch. Yesterday morning the paper mill caught on fire, but was finally gotten under control. The Times says it was a $ 10,000. fire, haven't heard the Sissons say. Grace has been over to see me twice - I do so dread to have her move away.

Shall be glad to see Sister Ella home again. It seems like a long time since the day the two girls started off in high glee.

I have been lonely today and would like so much to step into the study tonight - suppose you

are all sitting there if Mr. R is able - Shall hope to hear good news tomorrow. Dear Parson, you will have to go slower - health is the most essential thing - take good care of that. Dear Sister Rob. look out for yours too. I don't like any of you to be sick.

Very much love to all -

Sister Pert.

Mch. 15 - 1903.

My dear friends.-

Your message to me in my loneliness was received and it cheered me up wonderfully. You know just how to help and comfort your friends - I do appreciate your kind thoughtfulness. I have missed my dear "sisters" very much indeed, but to know that they are happy and making the Larson so, is a compensation. I was relieved to hear that they, with the numerous bundles, reached their destination without serious mishap. I daresay you all are thriving on jelly and doughnuts. This has been

such a dark day with a steady down pour of rain. There was just a fair audience in church this morning - very small tonight. Mr. Glover gave two fairly good sermons - nothing to rave over, however. He is a tall, slender man with black hair and moustache - between thirty five and forty. His voice and manner were fair. The greatest objection I have to him is, that he has altogether too much self-esteem - this is Sister Peet's impression from a distance. I did not speak to him because I didn't feel like it and I heard no opinion from others. So I may be entirely wrong. He is musical, being a member of a glee club as well as an organist - so he might be able to run the whole thing if necessary. I think he was probably liked in a general way, but no one was at all enthusiastic. He stopped at the Albion, but took dinner at Rufus Sisson's. Probably some one else will give you a report. Yesterday afternoon I went over to Mrs. Bates to a committee meeting for April Missionary meeting - I was disgusted when she asked me to write a paper, but as usual succumbed without a word. Mrs. Mc Arthur was there and seemed very cheerful and happy.

Prof. Haviland is taking a trip making Bates

for the Tech glee club for Easter vacation. I don't see how he gets in any real work.

George Sisson is home again. it seems good to see him around once more.

I am getting along housekeeping very well - the children are perfect angels even when I suggest that it is bed time. The only really hard part is having to be on time for breakfast - but I am in hopes that in time it will be my greatest pleasure.

I just imagine that having gotten home from church by this time - you are all sitting around

the study fire enjoying a real old fashioned visit - perhaps you are even munching Sister Pert's candy. Now if you should happen to run on to a brandy drop, you must remove it at once.
I hope that Sister Ella will see Mr. Emmeh - she can better appreciate the joke. Write again soon - I enjoy your letters so much.
Very much love to all.

Sister Pert

March 8 - 1903 -

Dear Mr. Robinson,-

Your good letter received this morning - it was a delight and a comfort. I sometimes wonder if you know how much your letters mean to me. I don't want to be selfish though - I know you have a great many demands on your time and I just think you are the dearest man to write me at all.

Sister Rob, Sister Ella and I have been down town this morning to do some shopping - now Sister Rob has gone over to Grace Sisson's

to spend the day - she is coming back to sleep, then go over there again tomorrow. I don't like to have her gone at all. Somehow it never seems right for your dear people to be any where but here. I love you so much I want you all to myself. Sister Rob and I got in a little "chat" last night when the others were at church, but it was all too short. If I had a home of my own, wouldn't we have a good time? She is gaining, we think, in flesh and spirit and seems very happy. She is on the go all the time but it is a change, anyway. The S.S. Teachers are to have a social meeting Thursday night. Ella + Arthur and Mr. + Mrs. G. W. F. Smith are the committee. She is writing the invitations now. The latest excitement is over Prof. Haveland of the Tech who was drunk on the street Saturday. I saw him as we were coming from train, but did not dare mention it until I heard it from some one else. The Tech minstrel show was Monday night and they say he has been under the weather ever since. The Tech trustees had a long session Saturday

p.m. Have not heard the outcome. He is the most popular professor among the boys. In one of your letters you said that you had hoped that Plato would gather all around him even Sister Pert. I wondered if you really meant that. I won't be gathered, anyhow, by him or the other man whoever he may be. We had a good laugh over the Gemmel affair - it is the best thing I have heard in a long time - Do I look like a perfect idiot? I am fond of Mrs. Gemmel, but as for him, well

Dear Mr. Robinson.-

Your letter received this morning - as I have a few moments before going down town will write you a line. You seem to be getting along fairly well in your loneliness - there is nothing like hard work for an aching heart - guess that is what I need. We are enjoying dear Sister Robinson's and Stewart's visit so much, although we do not see them long at a time. Stewart has just gone up to Barker's

to spend the day - He is a very good boy and no trouble at all. I was alone with the children last night as Arthur + Ella were in Hopkinton - they are coming home today. Sister Rob. and I had just settled ourselves in the back parlor for a nice chat when the telephone said she had callers at the Knowles, so I had to spend my evening alone. Sister Robinson is as happy and gay as can be - I think she will feel very different when she gets back to Syracuse and your life will be one glad, sweet song. I hope so, for that is what you deserve. We are going to try to keep her longer than the two weeks. It will be so nice to have her right here with us. She says she writes you every day, so you doubtless have all the news. This is a beautiful springlike day - but somehow the days of spring are hard to bear. I have had my trunk all packed ready to start for Syracuse in case the Gemmels need me. Wasn't that great! I suppose I look and act just as though I would jump at such an opportunity, but in the

case appearances are most deceiving.
I wish you would write me just
what they said. your letter
was so short. what is the matter
with you? Guess that Sunday
letter was too much for you. I
don't know who we are to have
next Sunday, but have heard
Mr. Robertson's name mentioned.
Grace Sisson has just telephoned
for me to go to ride with her
and Sister Rob. so "Good bye".

With love to the parson —

Sister Pert.

Feby. 26 - 1903.
10 a.m.

My dearest friends,-

We were so happy to hear of dear Sister Rob's decision and are anxiously awaiting her arrival-. You struck just the right time as G. K. K. is not to be home at present. Minnie said not for some time. So you see we can have a free and happy time - a jolly time, Sister Rob! And then we are all delighted to think that Stewart is to be with us too. We will take the best care of him - never fear. We want you both to have just the happiest time

that we can give you. It is very cold and clear here now - perfect winter weather. The Ferris's gave a large card party last night - The Botsfords have one tonight. Mr. Steele writes that he has found just the man for us out in Neb. His name is Campbell. The Session have four men that they are looking up now - one in Burke. Joe Bonney + wife are coming up to Flinch tonight - How I wish you dear people were coming instead. It is hard to get along without you. Your Wednesday's letter received this morning - it was enjoyed greatly, as usual. I am so glad that Mrs. Semmel is getting along so nicely. Wrote her a few days ago. Sister Ella seems to be feel unusually well and is very glad that we are to have Stewart. I think he will feel more at home here and will enjoy being with George and Josephine. I hope the parson won't give up to loneliness when he is left alone. Won't he have a great time doing just as he pleases!

With very much love to my dear sweet friends

Yours Sister Pert.

Feby. 19-1903.

We all feel it a great pleasure and privilege to have Stewart here.

G. L. O.

Dear Mr. Robinson,

Believe I said you would only get two letters from Sister Pert this week, but it looks now as though it would be three. I just feel lonely this evening as I am all alone with the children, and then I want to tell you how much good your letter did me. It was so nice of you to write me Sunday, when I know you must have been very tired and busy, and you know that Sister Pert appreciated it.

I just felt that if you would be

absolutely done up after last week's work, but have come to the conclusion that you have an endless amount of vitality stored away. Your visit was a delight to us. There is no one to whom I go for strength and sympathy except the Robinsons. you know that. I am always sure to get just the help I need from you dear people. I only hope I help you a little in return. Mrs. Erwin was taken very violently ill after she got home from Mrs. Holmes' funeral. The doctors think it is spinal meningetis (that isn't spelled right, but you grasp the idea). They are very much alarmed about her. Ella and Plato are at Fortnightly at Dr. Coit's this evening. Plato is going on the early train tomorrow - stopping at Utica to attend a funeral. This morning Joe Bonney took him over the Normal - afterward, Arthur Bonney took him to ride around town and up to the cemetary - of all places, in winter for a drive. He inquired where the cemetary was, so Arthur said he thought he would show him. This afternoon, Mr. Goodale called and Sister Ella entertained him the rest of the time. I sneaked off and made some calls - went to Vance's,

Baldwins and Holmes.
But to return to Plato. I saw Mrs. Rufus this p.m. She says that Rufus was very much disappointed yesterday and that he doesn't think Jones is the man for us. No one seems a bit enthusiastic over him and I haven't heard a person say they really liked him. Several spoke of his good prayer. but there it ended, so it doesn't look as though he would be considered at all. He hasn't expressed any opinion about the people and church here - he must be very conservative. You would really think that

he would compliment us a little bit, but he doesn't. I feel sorry for the man for he must know that people did not care much for him. He seems like an earnest christian man. During Mr. Goodale's call he asked Mr. Jones if he could suggest any one for this church. Wasn't that a queer thing to do? Don't mention anything that I have said about Jones - you will probably hear it from some one else.

The Heaths have bought a lot in one of the new suburbs of Yonkers. A house is to be erected and completed by Sept. 15. Mrs

Heath feels dreadfully about it.

I daresay you are enjoying the organ recital about this time - How I wish I were along. Don't get so gay with your dinner parties etc. this week that you will forget poor little me. I don't want to be left out. I wonder if there ever were any better, truer friends than we are - The Robinsons and Brush girls - I don't believe there could be. You people are everything in the world to me - you know that.

With lots of love to you all.

Sister Bert.

Feby. 16

My dearest friends,-

We have just gotten home from evening service and I expect you have too, so let us gather around the study fire for a little chat. In the first place I would like to know how the parson is after his hurried trip to the north. You must have been dreadfully tired and used up. I thought of you so many times. We were sorry that you did not get up here after the funeral. I was lonely, and after hearing the train move out, put on my duds and went over to

see Mrs. Landers and then up to Mrs. French's. two calls that should have been made long ago. Mr. Bonney had word that Plato would not arrive until the late train on account of attending a funeral in Utica Saturday. so he went to the Albion. Came up here after morning service, and is here now where he will remain as long as he is in town. Mr. & Mrs. Rufus and Joe Bonney and wife are down in the parlor now visiting with him and Sister Ella. He is pleasant to meet, but seems like a very ordinary man. Should imagine that he has a nice family from what he says. His sermons both morning and evening were fairly good, but too long. This morning he illustrated points by several harrowing stories that might better have been left out. Don't imagine he is accustomed to a great amount of style, as he says there are only two families in his church who keep a servant. Have not heard the opinion of many, so can't say what the outcome will be. They are going to have the church take a vote on him. I don't care who they have if he only suits other people. He and his

family (whoever he may be) will never be anything more than acquaintances to Sister Pert. He will never know my history unless some one else enlightens him.

Sister Ella thinks he would not come if they gave him a call, but that remains to be seen.

I hear that G. R. K. had a fine time when in N.Y. That she stopped at the Savoy and that there was a man with her. Don't ever breathe it and burn this quick.

I am going to see Mrs. Baldwin and Mildred Holmes tomorrow. Your talk at the funeral was so good. How do you always know just what

to say and how to say it?
Aren't you going to let Stewart come
up this week? We will take such
good care of him and he would
have a good time. Sister Rob, pack
up your duds and come soon.
we want you. I shall forget how
you look if I don't see your face
before long. My dear sweet friends,
just remember how much you
are loved by

Sister Pratt.

Feby. 15-1903.

My dearest friends.

Are you ready for another chat? I am anyway so here goes and if you get tired, don't bother to read the old thing. Your Sunday's letter was enjoyed all by my lonely - it was such a comfort. The Auxiliary also was very welcome and enjoyed by us all - it was kind of you to send it. I was so glad to know that Sister Rob was out to church again on Sunday for that means that she will soon be interested in outside affairs and so forget that she was ever "shut-

in with germs. Why don't you tell us when you are coming up here Sister Rob! Plan to make a long stay, as you have several places to visit and you must not slight any of us. We are so anxious to have you here again. Do hurry up. We were glad to know that the McArthur-Rutherford affair looks more encouraging. Should think she would want to make up, so as to have him pay bills if nothing more. She has to go to Dr's every day. We attended the wedding yesterday - it was quite swell. We had front seat, if you please. Gracie Sisson & cousin were along and after we came home we took out "Flinch-Jack" and went over to the Sisson house and spent the afternoo Grace had planned a little party for last night, but gave it up as Mr. Cook was not expected to live but a few hours. He must have a wonderful amount of vitality to last so long. Mrs. Holmes is gradually failing - had a hemorrhage yesterday.

Mrs. Knowles and Rosa both have hard colds. George and Josephine were over there to tea last night on Winnie's invitation and had a beautiful time. I called at

the Goodells Monday afternoon.
Sister Rob you should have heard
all the nice things she said
about you - called you a little
darling and said she just loved
you. Said some sweet things
about the parson, too.

The no-license men were victorious
yesterday. Ninety or so majority.
Isn't that fine? Tech reception
tonight - hardly any one in our
crowd going. There were 600 invitations
sent out. We have two Raymond
lectures this week. "Paris" Thursday
night and "London" Friday night.
I am getting to be real sedate -
haven't been down town once

this week I am sewing for all I am worth. I see the Post Standard claims that Syracuse is the healthiest place of its size in the State. I know Sister Rob will like to hear that.

If I could follow my desires, I would step into the study this afternoon for a real heart to heart talk. You are in my thoughts constantly and are dearer to me than you realize.

With very much love to you all, including Miss Stewart if she is with you.

Lovingly.

Sister Park.

Feby. 11 - 1903.

My dear, dear friends.-

Your Friday's letter was received and devoured - Like all good things it did not last long enough, but it cheered Sister Pert's heart and made her happy. This has been a day to remind one of Whittier's "Snow-Bound". The snow began falling early this morning and kept steadily at it all day - at times we could scarcely see across the street. We were all out to church this morning - the combined forces of the Methodist

Baptist and Presbyterian congregations hardly made a fair sized audience. Brother Miller presided in all his glory. Mr. Hopkins gave a temperance sermon or address - it was good enough but very loud and hardly seemed just the thing for our pulpit. The music was very good. Mrs. Everett played the organ and Fanny Clark sang in choir. The Pert pew is not so bad after all - The Fays are just in front and Mrs. Bolsford two seats back. Plato is to be here next Sunday - I just wonder what he will be like. Mrs. Finnemore said today that Mrs. Holmes was gradually failing - She was in to see her and sat for an hour on Friday. Yesterday was such a beautiful day - in the afternoon I went to ride with Grace Sisson and Miss Beckman. I had been longing for a sleighride and it did me lots of good. After I came home I got out the jelly pad and did the Sunday School lesson that you sent me. It was'nt a bit nice to do it all by my lonely, when you dear people had always been with me before, and the memories of those days piled up thick and

fast as I worked. Those were sweet and happy times - never to be forgotten. How much you did for me in having me at your home so often. I should have been a sad and hardened girl but for your love and constant thoughtfulness and care. You seemed to read me and to know just what I most needed - you understand me as no one else does, and it is such a comfort to unburden my heart to you. There is no one else in the whole world to whom I would go. You see Sister Pert is "off the track" again, but I can't help it - it is so natural.

I am very glad to do those lessons for you - it is a pleasure. Just send them on whenever you feel like it. Gave them to Mrs. Reynolds today. They are not as good as usual - the ink was pretty thick but I did not dare put water in it without consulting Miss Wilson. "Miss Casey" is to be married in church Tuesday at 3 o'clock. We are going of course. The Tech reception is Wednesday night. I was surprised at receiving an invitation - shall not go.

Mr. Cubley says his wife is to stop over one night with you

the last of the week - I am wondering where you will put her if Miss Stewart is there. Presume Mr. R. will sleep on cot in sewing room. You see how deeply interested I am in you all, sleeping or waking.

Mrs. Loveless was in yesterday afternoon and gave Sister Ella a long drawn out discourse on temperance - I wonder what she would say if she could see Auntie Wood's whiskey bottles in our dump barrel - it would be great fun. I bring one over and deposit in barrel regularly. I send you S.S. Lesson under separate cover, not to make you think you have two letters, but because I can't get it in here. Am wondering if you are cozily seated before study fire this evening - if so, I wish I were there too, for I am just in the mood for one of those dim firelight talks when all the outside world seems far away and just sweet rest and happiness within. Those three weeks in your dear home were happy ones indeed - I love to think of them and my dear sweet friends of No. 202.

Lovingly your

Sister Pert.

Feby. 8 - 1903.

My dearest friends.

I am thinking of you this morning and wondering if you are well and happy. Hope so anyway. Sister Robinson's letter received yesterday was very welcome and did me all sorts of good. Shall expect one from the Johnson soon. I was so lonely Wednesday after you left and to tell the truth, haven't gotten over that feeling yet. It was such a pleasure to see you again, though the time was all too short. You see it is not easy to think of all the little things one has to say. And then it is so much nicer

to talk to you dear people when by ourselves. I am glad that you like the picture. Thought Sister Rob would like the hat. I have had lots of compliments for that hat. There is nothing quite like a picture when you can't have the real person, is there? Joe and Helene were up last evening. They seemed to be in very good spirits. We played flinch until ten o'clock. Yesterday afternoon Mr. Bonney took me up to Mr. Smith's to get that insurance paper fixed. I do appreciate your kindness in letting me have that mortgage - you know it, don't you? You do help me so much. Life would not be worth living, without your dear friendship and affection. This is the day of Helen Loveless' and Lorena's reception "to meet Mrs. Cruikshank." Josephine says she don't see why they have it, says she has met her a hundred times since she came and has even had a ride with her. Mrs. Holmes was about the same yesterday. not much change. Mrs. Mathews girl has left. They are trying to do work with Johanna's help. Millie was impudent and I know from experience that Mrs. M. is not exactly calm. The excitement over the "important business" of your visit has subsided, in a measure. Our next door neighbor Mr. R. asked about

it yesterday - That is one thing that he won't find out. It amuses me greatly to think that he has run up against a snag for once.

Well, I must go down town now and do some errands. I will write you Sunday night as usual. Please write me often. I do love to get your dear letters. They mean so much to me.

With very much love to all -

Sister Pert.

Feby. 6 - 1903.

My dear, dear friends,-

Your good letters received this morning, read with great interest. It makes us happy to know that we shall see dear Mr. Robinson next week, and dear Sister Rob sometime in the near future. That certainly is an interesting errand that you are coming on, and I hope it will result in a reunion complete for the young people. I do hope that you will stay with us. Sister Ella will write you today and we hope you will accept. We are not afraid of "germs". Please get that idea out of your head.

We have been very busy all the morning making salad dressing for "the tea" Friday night - Ella and I are to make salad for 150 people - There about's. church teas are uncertain as to numbers. This fern. we are going to Graduating Exercises - I have a nephew and neice in the show. Poor Marion Sisson fainted away in school yesterday, but guess she will be able to "speak" today - she is tired out.

Last evening I spent at Gertrude Peck's, with seven other ladies - Grace Sisson + Cousin were there. Tonight is Raymond lecture on Berlin, so you see we are not idle. Josephine got through school all right in spite of her absence - had five E's. The weather is mild and the walks are so slippery - every one takes the road. You dear people, you are brave and cheerful - I know it must be so hard to wait and the days must seem so long. How I wish I could help you bear the burden. It is hard to be so far away from those we love when trials come, but you know that you are constantly in my mind and that my love and sympathy are going out to you through all the days + nights. It will be such a delight to see you again.

Much love to all.

Janiy. 29th.

Sister Pert.

My dearest friends.

I am thinking of you this morning and wondering if you are well and happy. Hope so anyway. Sister Robinson's letter received yesterday was very welcome and did me all sorts of good. Shall expect one from the Jorson soon. I was so lonely Wednesday after you left and to tell the truth, haven't gotten over that feeling yet. It was such a pleasure to see you again, though the time was all too short. You see it is not easy to think of all the little things one has to say. And then it is so much nicer

to talk to you dear people when by ourselves. I am glad that you like the picture. Thought Sister Rob would like the hat. I have had lots of compliments for that hat. There is nothing quite like a picture when you can't have the real person, is there? Joe and Helene were up last evening. They seemed to be in very good spirits. We played flinch until ten o'clock. Yesterday afternoon Mr. Bonney took me up to Mr. Smith's to get that insurance paper fixed. I do appreciate your kindness in letting me have that mortgage - you know it, don't you? You do help me so much. Life would not be worth living, without your dear friendship and affection. This is the day of Helen Loveless' and Lorena's reception "to meet Mrs. Cruikshank." Josephine says she don't see why they have it. says she has met her a hundred times since she came and has even had a ride with her. Mrs. Holmes was about the same yesterday. no much change. Mrs. Mathews girl has left. They are trying to do work with Johanna's help. Millie was impudent and I know from experience that Mrs. M. is not exactly calm. The excitement over the "important business" of your visit has subsided, in a measure. Our next door neighbor Mr. K. asked about

it yesterday - That is one thing that he won't find out. It amuses me greatly to think that he has run up against a snag for once.

Well, I must go down town now and do some errands. I will write you Sunday night as usual. Please write me often. I do love to get your dear letters. They mean so much to me.

With very much love to all -

Sister Pet.

Feby. 6 - 1903.

My dearest friends.-

Well, here I am writing again, but somehow it seems the natural thing to do. You may be thankful that you are not in Potsdam now if weather has any effect on you. Last evening we had a hard thunder-storm and the rain poured down in torrents. This morning everything is glare ice, the wind blowing and the rain turning into snow. And this is the night of our church tea. Will your dear people step in and take tea with us? We will leave our posts of duty, in fact drop

now you have every reason to rejoice. Stewart is getting over it so beautifully and the days of waiting will soon be over. This is such a beautiful balmy morning. wish the dear Robinsons were here. we would have a jolly sleigh ride. Wish you could see the Pert pew for this year. Our names were not drawn until very last and we had no choice. It is on the north side of church. side aisle. Mrs Lester in front. Ira Ransom behind. Mr. Hamlin has your old pew. Mr. Goodale has taken Mr. Hamlin's. I think Sister Ella is writing you and will probably tell you all the news, so this will be brief. I am so sorry that Mrs. M= Master is lonely and miserable. I wrote her yesterday thinking perhaps it might cheer her up a little. I only wish the distance were not so great so that her friends could run up often. I am making a little Kimona for Mrs. Gemmel and hurrying for all I am worth to get it there "before". Shall be anxious to hear how she gets along.

You will be surprised to know that I have been sitting for my picture again. Mr. Stone never liked the last ones I had and has insisted on another sitting before I post bill. The negatives were simply dreadful

so I sat again yesterday. If there are any good, you will probably see one some day, unless you are tired of seeing me around and I should think you would be. Well, I don't know what I wouldn't give to see your dear faces again and have a good visit. I love you with such a deep and sincere affection, and I can't help telling you so all the time. It grows richer and deeper each day.

With love to Mrs. Edgerton, Stewart and your own dear selves.

Sister Peck.

Janiy. 27-1903.

Sister
Ella says
to tell you
that she
will write
very soon.
Josephine
went to
church
today and
will go
back to
school
tomorrow.
Yours
S. P.

My dear, dear friends,-

If you only knew what a comfort and joy your letters are to me, you would feel amply repaid for all the extra work and you would never again ask if I like of them. I just love to get them and watch for the postman every day - in fact, there is nothing that gives me so much real pleasure as to get one of your letters, go off by "my lonely" and devour the contents - I always find such helpful things in each one and feel that you write

from the heart, just as I do. It was such an unexpected pleasure to see Dear Sister Robinson's hand writing once more. Indeed, I am not afraid of germs and haven't been at any time. You must hurry up and get fumigated and in running order so Sister Rob. can come up to Toledano. It will do her all sorts of good and we will just have a lark. I sent a small package yesterday. Thought, Dear Sister, you would like an apron just like mine. The Madrid man preached for us today and I should have enjoyed him, only that he made me think of Dr. Allard all the time and my recollections of him are not really pleasing. Before the sermon, Mr. Cubley made a plea for funds to run temperance campaign. Said our church ought to give from $ 75.00 to $100.00. Don't know what amount the collection showed. I know that you have heard of Geo. Sisson's victory, because some one said you sent a telegram of congratulation. You always do every thing just right. Because of the work yesterday, no one went to hear Tolson, but they will have an opportunity next Sunday as it

is Baccalaureate Sunday. We are to have no service in the morning except Sunday School at 10-30.

G. R. K. is in New York. She stopped in Albany three hours to see Mrs. Ed. Bonney. Suppose she found out every detail of their affairs from A. to Z. We are so sorry to lose Prof. Moyer. he has accepted a position in New York and leaves here Feb. 1. It is reported that he will receive salary of $ 2500 00 This is another blow to our division of Fortnightly. Just think of the numbers that have fallen out. Mrs. Sumner does not attend and take it all in all, things

move pretty slowly. I have not cared for the meetings this winter and have been only from a sense of duty - the club is so changed.

Kate Knowles left Friday for a visit with Mrs. Bill - from there goes to her sister, I believe. Does not expect to come back here to live. I am anxious to know how the McArthur - Rutherford affair turns out - cannot understand how two people can get so estranged. My own experience was such a happy one.

Lou Gemmel sent me such a sweet letter last week - She is a model of cheerfulness and bravery

do hope everything will go all right there. Our postponed Church meeting is to come off tomorrow. Shall I draw a seat for you, dear Sister Rob? I was over to see Auntie Wood this afternoon. she was feeling quite happy over a letter from Mr. Steele in which he said that there was no place so dear to him as Potsdam. That was a most charming picture that you drew of turning on the lights, closing the blinds and making ready for a cozy evening - all the more charming because I have tasted the delights of that "cosiness" many times - the memory of it will never be forgotten. I don't know how I could live were it not for my memories - they are such sweet and happy ones and bring my friends near when they are really far away. You dear sweet friends, how I do love you anyway - no one ever loved you more or half as much, according to my way of thinking. Both of you write as often as you can, won't you? I must hie away to my little bed now.

With very much love, "Goodnight + pleasant dreams."

Sister Pert.

Jan'y. 25th.

My dearest friends,-

How would you like me to send the 10$? N.Y. draft, P.O. order or stamps? Isn't it strange the way things work. The reason I did not send you a letter on Saturday was that I thought it would lay in post office over Sunday and news would be old by the time you received it. This is a very stormy day. Had to go down town this morning and by the time I got around home was damp and weary. Josephine is playing out in the storm and snow and having great fun. Dr.

McKay said that she had better not go to school until next week to make sure you see. I had just as soon have her out. it is doing her good. Sunday, Josephine did not go to Mission Band, so Kate Knowles asked Louise Bonney to remind her of her pledge. Louise said, "Josephine isn't here today. she is staying at home because she has the germs". I don't know when anything has struck me so funny as that remark. People seem to think I ought to be greatly distressed over the fact that Josephine might have disease, when really I have hardly given it a passing thought. Jake Alguire inquired very feelingly after you people yesterday. He is a good friend of yours. Leland Powers was very good last night, though I think not as funny as last year. He was especially good as Mr. Micawber, when he ran his fingers through his hair making it stand on end and gave a comical little cough now and then.

The committee on minister still seem to be thinking of Tolson. Mr. & Mrs. Jennings and Ethel Keenan heard him last Sunday. Ethel wrote that his voice was husky. that seems to be the only drawback and certainly would be unpleasant. It is discouraging, but we

are not the only ones. Stone St. Church, Watertown seem to be having the same kind of a time. I wonder why there were not more men made like you. But I am glad there were not. We just want one Mr. Robinson & wife, and to tell the actual truth I can't bear to have any one else take possession of parsonage, church etc. but suppose that is selfishness.

G. R. K. is still away. I have been over there twice lately - am getting it done up while she is absent.

Ella and I are going to call upon Mrs. Cruikshank this P. M.

They say that she hasn't developed a bit. It is too bad - she might make so much of herself.

I want you to know how very much I enjoy the Post Standard. When I read it in the afternoon, it is pleasant to feel that you read the same things in the morning. I don't like you to say that you think you have been an affliction to us. You know very well that I count you as my very nearest and dearest friends and my only regret is, that I have not been able to really help you - through this

trial. You both know that Sister Pert loves you more than anyone else in this world and that she would do anything in her power to help you and make you happy. I realize every day how very much you have done for me and how greatly I have depended upon you and looked to you for strength and comfort during the last two years. I feel that I must have overtaxed your strength and patience many times. But you know my temperament and how necessary it is to open my heart once in a while. If I have ever helped you, you have repaid it ten fold by your love and interest in me. It is a sweet friendship and so helpful. Without it life would not be worth living.

Hope Dear Sister Robinson is anticipating her visit here. we are. We will have a jolly time.

Lovingly Yours.

Sister Pert.

Janiy. 21st 1903.

My dearest friends.-

Well, you have gotten back to work again, haven't you? I daresay you never saw a bride being dressed before. wonder they didn't want you to perform the duties of a maid. I saw an account of the wedding in Post Standard yesterday and was glad to know that you could be out. it was a diversion any way and certainly a very unusual experience.

We seem to be rather gay this week - Lecture on Vienna

Raymond, last night was very good. This afternoon we attend an informal reception at Mrs. Leete's for Mrs. Trunkshank. Sister Ella is to pour tea while I - well I shall probably stand around and look miserable - *feel* so, at any rate. This evening we are going to have Mrs. Fay, Gertude, their friend Mrs. Brookes, and Mrs. Geo. Bonney up to play "Flinch" Isn't that a combination for you? Mrs. Brookes is a real sweet little woman and must exert a good influence over them. Her husband who was a minister, died last year and she has no home. Gertude

expects to sail the latter part of March. all by her lonely.
Yesterday we called upon the Sisson cousin, who is visiting Grace. But even though we are busy with these little social affairs, I do not get interested specially. My heart is not in them, but I try to make it appear so, and think I succeed. That seems to be a part of this life. Don't think me blue - I am not in the least. I should be were it not for the love of you dear people - That makes me happy and cheerful and equal to anything.
I do love you so deeply and

devotedly and wish for your constant happiness. These changing experiences that you speak of certainly are interesting to watch and I liked so much to have you say that "all things work together for good". We need to be reminded of that once in a while, at least, I do. Well, here I am "off the track" and perhaps making you tired. Have you finished "A Journey to Nature"? If so, please tell me how it ended. I was much interested in it. How are the finger nails? Wish I might step in, polish them up and chat a bit. Those are

pleasant memories. Did you know that Mr. Killough had accepted a call to Congregational Church in Massena?

We hear that Mrs. Holmes is gradually failing and suffers intensely at times.

Now don't waste ten cents on a messenger boy next Sunday. I won't write again until Sunday night, if I can stand it to wait until then.

With lots of love to all.

Yours.

Sister Pert.

Janiy. 23rd 1903.

My dearest friends,.

Please excuse this paper. I find that I am out of the other and want to write you a line just now. Your letter came this morning and did me all sorts of good. A word from you makes me happy for the whole day, so you see how much you are to Sister Pert. I have written you nearly every day since we came home, haven't I? Wonder you are not tired of the old letters, but somehow I just cannot

help writing you - it is the next thing to a little chat and you are in my mind constantly. How free you will feel when quarantine is removed - when will that be?
Ella and I are on tea for next Thursday and have a committee meeting at Mrs. Heath's this p.m. Some of the com. did not want a tea, but Mrs. Geo. Bonney said she was for a tea and she knew that Mr. Robinson would want us to have them often and keep together.
The pastor question has narrowed down to two men - Rufus says it will be either Jones or Tolson. Two of session will probably hear Tolson next Sunday. The letters they have received in regard to Tolson are

great. They say almost too much, I think. Mr. Waldo Smith had the prayermeeting last night. a fair number out. It looks very much as though Geo. Sisson would come out ahead on Saturday - we are hoping so. What have you decided about Sealy mortgage? I want to know so as to make other arrangements about investing the money if I don't have that. Don't let it go, unless you feel that you really want to - please be perfectly frank about it.

How I would love to run in and see you dear people this minute. Write often - and remember that we all love you very much.

Yours Lovingly - Sister Pert.

Jan. 22, '03.

My dearest friends.-

I wrote you last night and put it in the box as I went to church this morning, for I knew you would have no letters on Sunday and perhaps one Monday morning might cheer you up a bit. Mr Cann preached for us this morning - had a fairly good sermon, but very lengthy. The music was fine. Frank has gotten all his pay for last year. Guess he was so thankful that he felt like giving us extra fine singing. They say now that last years expenses are all paid up and that the

$400. deficiency is on the coming year. They have always had the coal paid for other years, and the $400.00 includes cost of fuel yet to be bought, so it is not so bad after all and the amount will easily be raised I believe, as there were fifteen people or so who had not been seen at time of meeting. This has been such a very cold day - hard to keep warm. I went down to John's after dinner and stayed nearly all the afternoon - the first time I had seen them for a visit since we came home. Mattie Pert came home with me and stayed to lunch. Have just gotten Josephine to bed and everything is calm and peaceful. Her vacation is doing her good - she looks so well and strong. I am going to try and make up a lot of calls this week, especially on church people - trying to do my duty, you see. Leland Powers is to be here Tuesday evening - wish you could be here to go - you enjoyed him so much last year. I expect that your dear people are sitting around the fireplace in the study about this time and I wonder if you have thought of Sister Pert - I just know you have and it makes me quite happy. I have been lonely today and have longed for the dear Robinsons. Every one here is kind to me, but I miss that depth of affection

which we three feel for each other.
It is worth every thing to me.
I suppose Stewart is anxious to
be up - The days must seem very
long to you all, but they will soon
be over and you can take up
your work again. Somehow, it
is hard for me to get interested
in anything - but I am going to
begin tomorrow - at least, I shall
try real hard.

With lots + lots of love.

Sister Pert.

Janiy. 18th 1903.

Dear Mr. Robinson,-

Your early morning letter was received and read with interest: also the one written in the evening. Please never again give a second thought to anything you may have written when in a state of "the blues". I understand those feelings perfectly and know that it does one worlds of good to give expression to them at times. I am sure you ought to feel perfect freedom with the "Brush Girls" for you know they love to hear and help you in every way and especially

when you are down-hearted. You are so strong and noble and good, so helpful and true. Our only wonder is that you have not given up to "blues" entirely, being shut up in the house with nothing especial to do and no one to bring in fresh interest. We have talked about it very often and I have thought when I have not talked. You should have heard the nice things that Mrs. Finnemore said about you the other day. She said that no other Pastor could ever touch her heart as you had and that she just loved you. I am so glad that Sister Robinson can be with you now and sit by the cozy fireplace. It is very sweet of you to talk of me. How I wish I could be with you and have a real heart to heart talk such as we had only a short time ago. Those little times mean so much to the dear Robinsons and Sister Pert, don't they?

Grace Sisson was over and spent this afternoon with me. Mrs. Cruikshank arrived at Mrs Yates today for a visit. I think I shall write and call in that note the first of week - it won't be paid until Feby. 5th. Think I will take electric light bond if you can get it for me, but don't do anything about it just yet. That is, you see I won't have money until Feby. 5th. Now, about Sealy mortgage. Don't you want to keep that for yourself? It seems too bad to

call in such a large amount when you don't need it all. Do just as you think best of course, only I wouldn't like you to feel that you ought to turn it over to me because Will got it for you. If you decide that you want to keep it, twill be all right for I think I can place the other $1,000.00 on a mortgage at 5% in town. I hope I have made myself clear. Of course, I would be glad to get Daly mort. if you really wish to part with it.

Josephine is well and I believe growe tall every day. Her likeness to Will struck me more forcibly today than it ever has before. She looks exactly like him, for

which I am very thankful.

The new maid has arrived and everything seems to be going along as usual. It is nearly 10 o'clock and I must stop now. I am trying to retire just at ten every night.

With very much love to you all.

Sister Pert.

Janry. 17- 1903.

Janry. 15 - 1903

My dearest friends,-

That new paper of yours is great - very neat and pretty. Well, Sister Pert's letters have come in thick and fast this week, haven't they? I am all alone with Josephine this evening, the rest of family having gone to Raymond lecture. I did not care to go, so I am sitting here in my bath robe talking with you. The tea is over. There were not as many out as usual. Took $18.00. Mr. Cann was there and said grace. he is getting to be quite a Presbyterian. Jessie Loveless was on this tea, but she

did not have anything to do with it. She is terribly down on the Presbyterians, especially the Cubleys. She wrote Mr. C. an eight page letter giving him a great calling down. She says she stood by the church when you were there because she thought so much of you, but now she is going to leave. I say "go it". She wrote a letter to Miss Clark and gave her a great lecture, because Helen was not given an important part in the Hiawatha play. Such is life! I am sorry for her poor husband. Mrs. Cubley leaves Sunday afternoon for Mount Clemens, Mich. Sanitarium, for treatment for rheumatism - says she shall stay four weeks. She is no worse, but thinks she will take it in time. Mrs. Holmes is just about the same. Miss Benson got tired out and they have Mrs Lewis (Sister Robinson's favorite) now. Mrs. Sanford said she read a beautiful letter that Mrs. Holmes had from you today. Mrs. Heath is still president of Ladies Aid. They wanted her to stay in this year. Mrs. Geo. Sisson has my place as Secretary. We are all hoping that Geo. Sisson will be supervisor. The liquor men are putting up a strong vote for Merritt, and George is afraid he won't get it. The Bonney boys

returned to Albany last night. The home there is to be broken up right away and they are going to Rochester to live where Ned has work. Malcolm is to leave school and go to work also. We have not learned in what shape his business is left. Hannah is to leave Saturday. Julia Caroline will take her place here. We are so glad to know that Dear Sister Robinson is feeling better. It has been a great drain on you both and now you must rest and recuperate. I am going to write to Stewart. Perhaps it may help to amuse him a little.

I thank you very much for your kindness in offering me the mortgage and will let you know soon. How much longer does it run? I think I will consult Mr. Perkins about calling in the note - will do so tomorrow. It is too bad that you have all this extra expence just as you were trying to save something - but that is often the way.

I am very glad if my letters have been any comfort to you - it was a pleasure for me to write them for I always feel better and happier after a chat with

you even if I do all the talking - I just know what you would say at every point. Is Mrs. McMaster at Saranac Lake and does she know of Stewart's illness? I am going to write her and don't want to make any blunders.

Back to business again - it was very kind of you to inquire about electric light bond. Should think it would be perfectly safe. I am sure I understood that they could be secured at par - is that right? You are so good and kind to me and you just know how very much I appreciate it, don't you? Josephine is well and very happy.

With best love -

Sister Bert.

50 Elm St. Potsdam. N.Y.

Janry. 15 - 1903.

My dearest friends.

We were so glad to receive your good letter yesterday telling of Stewart's improvement. You must be so thankful and happy to know that he is out of danger and on the road to recovery.

Josephine still continues well and is a very good little girl. I have felt no uneasiness about her at any time. There is a Church Tea this afternoon and I have

consented to taking a table with Mrs. Geo. Sisson just to help them out. Mrs. Joe Bonney and Grace Sisson had to give up theirs. I thought it would have been just as well to bestow tea until another week on account of so much sorrow, but of course, had nothing to do with that part of it. Mr. Rufus Sisson had the prayer meeting last night - only about 30 there - it was a stormy night. Afterward I went over to see Grace Sisson and we had a nice visit up in her room. She has not been at all well, but was feeling better last evening. My sister too, has been under the weather, so take it altogether this has been rather a blue week. All my relatives and everyone else have been very nice to me - Even Auntie Wood is pleasant. I do miss you dear people so much - it is hard to get along without you. I must make this letter brief as it is time to go to church to work - Wish that postman would come along - I am sure I shall have a letter from you and don't like to wait for it. Your letters are the bright spots in my life, now.

With very much love to all.

Sister Pert.

Jan. 14 - 1[illegible]3.

My dearest friends,-

Thought we would hear from you this noon, but as the train is over two hours late I won't wait longer as I want to get this off at 3.45. We hope that Stewart is continuing to improve and feel sure that you would let us know if he were not. It seems like a horrid dream to me that you have been through so much since we left you. Have you any idea where he contracted the disease. Josephine is perfectly well and is having great fun playing outdoors, catching bobs etc. Dr. Stowell does not want her to come to school for a few days and we are perfectly satisfied to have her

stay out. She can do her school work in a few moments at home and keep along with class. I haven't had a bit of fear of disease for her. In fact I have no fear of anything. How changed from what I used to be! Arthur + Ella have gone to Mr. Ed. Bonney's funeral at the house. Mr. Cann is to officiate. Ned and Malcolm came with Joe. Mrs. Ed. Bonney is not well and was frustrated. It seems so sad that he should have taken his own life. His father + mother did not know the real cause of death until this morning. It was too bad that the train was so late. body did not get here until 1:45 just 15 min. before time set for funeral. Mr + Mrs. O.E. are very calm and brave. just as they always are. I just wonder how you dear people are now. You are in my mind every moment and it seems so hard not to be able to do something to help you. How I long for one of those quiet helpful talks. How <u>much</u> <u>good</u> it would do us. Sister Ella and I talk of you almost constantly. Everyone knows of Stewart's illness and you may be sure that you have the sympathy and love of all your people here. They are so anxious to hear the latest report from you. I know that it must require a great deal of patience and self control to go through such an ordeal, but you are equal to anything and you know too, that you have the deepest love and sympathy of Sister Pert. Am sure that must help a little. Write often - we do love to hear from you. With much love from all, especially Josephine

and Sister Pert.

I have Josephine
Jorgie Mumford
and Ruth Lem
upstairs now.
She is
perfectly well
and
happier.

Janry. 13 - 1903.

My dearest friends.-

Oh. what joy it gave us to read your encouraging letter this morning - it was a beautiful letter. so like your own dear self. We sent you a telegram to cheer you, to let you know how happy we were and to tell of Josephine's good health. Last evening it seemed to me that I could not stand it until morning without hearing from you and if it had not been too late would have sent a telegram requiring an answer, but it is all right now. I have felt that

Stewart would come out all right all the time. Of course, it was well that we came away just as we did for Josephine's sake, but I have wished so many times that I could have been with you, for I believe that I could have cheered and strengthened you both. You know how dear and close you are to me. The dearest and closest friends I have. You do so much for one. The Post Standard is a daily visitor. very welcome. and I do enjoy it so much. Another instance of your kindness. Don't, I beg of you, worry about Josephine in the least. If she should have it (which I feel sure she won't) I should feel that it was all for the best, somehow, and would come out all right. Those things are in our Father's hands and we have very little to do with them. We always have strength given us with the trial. So just please remember that it will make Sister Pert unhappy if you worry any more about her. Dear Sister Robinson, you ought to be so thankful that Stewart is over the worst. don't worry or mind anything else. You have everything to be thankful for. Sister Pert is doing lots of talking, but it is just the way I feel and I do want to help you. You imagine that people will feel afraid of you, but they won't. wish I were with you this minute. We were so disappointed at not seeing you up here, but I am

sure you will come before long. We want to see you so much and are too good friends to be long separated.

After hearing reports and electing same Trustees again, the Annual Church meeting was postponed for two weeks to see more people and try to have subscriptions raised. They are about $400.00 behind on last year and this year together. Mr. Sweet is in favor of lowering salary of pastor to $1500.00 Isn't that just like him? Several people (The Knowles family among the number) say they will lower their subscription if this is done, so I guess Mr. S. will have to take a back seat.

Now, dearest Sister Robinson,
be brave and courageous
for your dear husband's
sake as well as your own.
There is nothing that helps
so much in the face of a
trial. I would love to be
with you and minister to
your comfort, but as I can
not, I want you both to know
and feel that I am with you
in spirit constantly - and
that I love you more than
you can ever know.

Lovingly Yours -

Sister Pert.

Janu. 12. 1903.

My dearest friends, -

Your letter recd. this afternoon. I feel that I must write you just a word at least, so that it will go out tonight. Have just been over to Grace Sisson's and learned the contents of each others letters. We are all so anxious over Dear Stewart's condition and I can think of nothing else. You must know how my heart aches for you in this trial and I would give all I possess if I could be with you and help to lighten the burden and give you sweet comfort

This morning I received Sister Robinson's letter which was written Friday night and it contained the dearest little note for me only. It was so sweet of her. Those little notes are very precious to me - they seem a part of your own dear selves. How sweet our friendship is - I realize now, more than ever, the depth and strength of the love we have for each other - I do not know whether you care to hear any news - you need not read it unless you feel like it. I went down to funeral, but only stayed a few moments. It was too much for me. Mr. Townsend and Mr. Saunders took some part with the three other clergyman. The flowers were beautiful. Josephine is perfectly well - am not at all disturbed about her. I know that I should have strength given me to bear it if she should be ill. But I am confident that she won't be, and that Stewart is coming out all right too. I am not at all afraid of the note paper. We want to hear from you constantly - Oh, for more frequent mails! The twenty four hours are up now and how I wish we knew just how Stewart is. Remember that Sister Pert is with you in spirit every moment. All send best love to all the household.

Your Loving Sister Pert.

My dearest friends,.

Your telegram received just as we came home from church today and it filled us all with sadness to learn of dear little Stewart's illness. I feel so thankful, however, that it is a mild form and that he can have the best of physicians to care for him.

You dear children, I

feel as though I must step in and help you bear the burden. I cannot bear the thought of you in any trial and I not being able to help you and comfort you. But if this is any help, you may rest assured that I am loving and praying for you constantly - you are not out of my thoughts for a moment. I want you to feel that if you are ever in need of Sister Pert's presence, she stands ready and more than willing to come to you - remember that. Josephine is perfectly well and I am not at all worried or disturbed about her - It was so thoughtful of you to wire me and I appreciate it. We were looking forward with greatest pleasure to seeing Dear Mr. Robinson on Monday and Sister Ella was planning on having you stay with us, but now that pleasure

will have to be post poned
until a future date.
Have heard that Dr. Kirby,
Mr. Miller and Mr. Camm
are to have part in the
funeral service tomorrow.
The Men's League met after
service tonight to take
some action in regard
to Mr. Sumner's death.
I went up to see Mrs.
Sumner yesterday, but
she was in bed and
completely prostrated. Had
not slept for some
nights. Her brothers are

with her. Mr. Hamilton, who was to have preached today was ill, so sent a Mr. Harvey, a canadian, who gave two very good sermons. Ella said she saw him take his ring out of his pocket and put it on just before sermon tonight. I am to go into Junior Dept. with my class as soon as there is coal to heat the Session room. The Juniors stay in big part now. Every one seemed glad to see me - even Auntie Wood was sweet

and never mentioned my long stay. I gave Mr. Goodale one of the "Park Church Auxiliaries" as Mrs. Rufus said they had one at home. You sent one to Rufus, I believe. I could not get the size in slipper soles, but Mr. Simonds has sent for them - it pleased him immensely to think that we could not get them in Syracuse. Mrs. Edgerton will get her pattern in a day or two - let me know if she does not. I wish I knew just how sick Stewart is and if you preached today etc. I am so interested in every detail of your lives and it seems to me that I must know how you are getting along. I wonder if you dear people realize what joy you gave us all through our visit. The highest compliment I can pay you is, that it was the happiest three weeks I ever experienced. If you could know how much good your letter did me you would feel amply repaid. I was so lonely and I do miss you all and the quiet talks more than I can tell. Now, dear brother

and sister be strong and
of good courage and
every thing will come out
right. Let us hear often -
we are so anxious.
Remember that you have
the deepest sympathy
and greatest love of

Sister Pert.

Jan. 11 - 1903.

50 Elm St. Potsdam, N.Y.
Jan. 9 - 1903.

My dearest friends.-

Here I am sitting at my desk in my own little room writing to the two persons I love best in this world. How I wish we were all in the dear study talking by the dim firelight, just as we were last night. Those happy sweet hours will never be forgotten. You will think by the tone of this letter that I am homesick. I am more than that. I am heart sick, but no one knows it except you. But I know you are anxious to hear about your trip home. After we were nicely settled in the car, I took out "Captain January" and read several chapters to Josephine who was intensely interested. At the end I could not have told for the life of me what I had been reading.

A few miles out of Syracuse we ran into a snow storm that was nearly a blizzard. We were a little late in getting into Richland, so did not get the fast train until reaching Watertown. But there was an advantage in this, in that we did not have the wait in Watertown. After we were again settled we opened our lunch box. How nice and dainty everything looked and how good it tasted. We did enjoy every bit of it. Dear Sister Robinson, you know how to do things. Mr. Allwelt, the decorator, was on the train coming to Gouverneur to look over Judge Abbott's house, and he was very nice to us. We offered him some lunch and he finally took a currant cake and wafer and seemed to enjoy them. He seems like a very pleasant sensible man, says they live near Dr. Mc Master. We came flying the latter half of our trip and on our arrival found Brother Arthur waiting for us. They all seemed so glad to see us, especially Sister Ella. By the way, she was perfectly delighted with the bag and thinks it a beauty. It does look very pretty on her. She thinks it was very expensive and you may be sure I shall not enlighten her. Isn't it fun to have little secrets all our own? I have been unpacking (with a heavy heart) and trotting out my new things. They actually think my new hat is a stunner. Just wait till I appear in it on Sunday. Josephine went over to Auntie Woodi with Mama this afternoon. She sent word for one to come over and do some writing for her tomorrow. If she says one

unkind word, she will have to do her own writing. Joe Bonney called with the Church subscription paper this p.m. Mr. Robertson is not to preach Sunday as he could not get a supply for his pulpit. They telegraphed a Mr. Hamilton who is a student in Montreal and he is coming or send some one. He preached in the Congregational Church in Massena as a supply and Waldo Smith heard him there. There was to be a cottage prayer meeting at Grace Sisson's this evening. don't know whether it came off or not. I did not feel like going. I know that you will be sorry to hear that G. M. T. is in Saratoga and all that love will have to wait until her

return. I should not be surprised if she landed on your door step before her return, just to see how you are getting along. Don't leave this letter in your "dish drainer", for if you happened to be out, she would go through the house. study and all.
I have been thinking about you dear people all the afternoon and have hoped that you were having a great many calls to cheer you up. In fact, you have not been out of my mind since I left you this morning. You were all so sweet and kind to us and I feel that I am not worthy all that love and kind thoughtfulness. The last three weeks have been weeks of perfect

happiness and I shall live on the memories of them for weeks to come. Somehow, this never seemed so little like home and so unattractive as now. But I must stop this and go to my little lone bed, as it is nearly 10 o'clock. You will hear from me again soon. Let me know how you are. Remember how much I love you and don't get blue. Love to Mrs Edgerton and Stewart and your own dear selves -

Sister Pert.

you will both be
with us again.

Yours in Christ service

Mabel B. Pierce

yesterday, especially
at the Christian Endeavor
meeting. We did have
such a nice meeting.
and there were a good
many strangers.
Please extend my
sympathy and love
to Mrs. Robinson, and
trust it will not be a
very long time before

Dear Mr Robinson. –

We can assure you we were sorry indeed to miss your call, but we never fail to accept all invitations that take us out of town.

Was so in hopes you would stay for Wednesday evening prayer meeting, we returned in time for that, but had you said one word you would have been so distressed to have seen the small company

that graced the prayer room
however we all tried to make
the service a profitable one.

I caught a glimpse of a
black streak going up in the
middle of the road Tuesday
and Marion said it was
Mrs. Robinson, judging from
her appearance, think you
were a little late, and
hanging to lunch.

Now the very next time
you come you must bring
Mrs. Robinson, we are all
getting hungry to see her.

You may as well make

of your minds to come back to stay for it - it plain to be seen there is not another that will ever be able to fill your place, and the ranch is in vain, and that dear little house looks so desolate and spooky, those windows staring at us as we pass, brings tears to our eyes.

John and Marion join in sending kindest wishes to

Mrs Robinson
Mr Robinson
Mother and Stuart

Most Sincerely yours Lilla Rot-

Feb-9-1903.